

HEALTH
A 26 NOV 49
C.R. 33

B O R O U G H O F L O S T W I T H I E L

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1948.

WILLIAM AITCHISON, M.C.,
M.A., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.,
D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Lostwithiel.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual
Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the
District for the year 1948.

This is the first Annual Report to be
presented since the coming into force on 5th July 1948 of
the National Health Service (1946) Act, and has been compiled
with some difficulty owing to the change of Medical Officers.

From 5th July 1948 Lostwithiel has been
included with St. Austell Urban, St. Austell Rural, Fowey and
Newquay Districts in No. IV Health Area of the County of
Cornwall with a Health Area Office established at 34a Fore
Street, St. Austell, for the purpose of carrying out the
duties for which the County Health Authority has assumed the
responsibility which include Care of Mothers and Young
Children, Midwifery Service, Health Visiting Service, Home
Nursing Service, Vaccination and Immunisation, County Ambulance
Service, Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care, Domestic
Help Service, Mental Health Service.

The review of the Health and Vital
Statistics for 1948 is very satisfactory. The Birth rate is
20.35 per thousand compared with 17.90 per thousand for
England and Wales. The total number of Deaths assigned to
this District was 21 corresponding to a Death Rate of 9.93
compared with 10.8 per thousand for England and Wales.

The building of new houses is progressing
but there is still a long list of applicants for new houses,
and it is hoped that another year will see a large increase
in the number of occupied houses.

Thanks are due to Mr. Buller, the Sanitary
Inspector of the Council, and his staff for their invaluable
assistance during the year. It is also a pleasure to record
our gratitude to the Members of the Public Health Committee and
other Committees for their interest in and sympathetic support
of the Public Health work.

I have the honour to be, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM AITCHISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

AREA - (In acres) 3,050. Lostwithiel is a typical country town situated in a charming position in the Fowey River Valley and wonderfully endowed with great natural beauty. It includes a small surrounding district, rural in character, with agriculture and dairy farming as the main occupations. The town is a favourite spot for holiday makers and anglers seeking the warmth of our southern climate.

POPULATION - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid year 1948 to be 2,113 about the same as previous years.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES - According to the Rate Book the number of Inhabited Houses in the District is 700, the Rateable Value being £9,395 which represents £38.16.0d. for a Penny Rate.

The Council with a view to providing a Public Hall has resolved to transfer to a "Victory Hall" Committee the premises known as the Old Grammar School to be adapted from funds voluntarily subscribed for this purpose.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	3,050
Population	2,113
Number of Inhabited Houses	700
Rateable Value	£9,395
Product of a Penny Rate	£38.16.0.

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per Thousand	Rate England & Wales.
LIVE BIRTHS					
Legitimate	42	26	16)		
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>)	20.35	17.90
	<u>43</u>	<u>26.</u>	<u>17</u>		

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per Thousand	Rate England & Wales.
STILL BIRTHS.					
Legitimate	-	-	-)		
Illegitimate	-	-	-)	Nil	0.42

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per Thousand	Rate England & Wales.
DEATHS (all causes)					
	21	8	13	9.93	10.80

DEATHS from PUERPERAL CAUSES.

Puerperal and post abortive sepsis.....	-	-	-		-
Other Puerperal causes	-	-	-	NIL	-

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per Thousand Live Births.	Rate England & Wales.
INFANT MORTALITY					
Legitimate	1	-	1)		
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>)	6.85	34.00
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>		

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following is a list of the causes of death, in accordance with the International List of Causes of Death, 1938:-

	Male	Female	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	-
7. Tuberculosis - other forms	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Ac.Poliomyelitis and Poliocencephalitis	-	-	-
12. Ac.Inf.Encephalitis	-	-	-
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity, Oesphagus (M) and Uterus (F)	-	1	1
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-
15. Cancer of Breast	-	-	-
16. Cancer of all other sites	-	4	4
17. Diabetes	-	-	-
18. Intra.Cranial Lesions	1	2	3
19. Heart Disease	3	3	6
20. Other disorders of circulatory system	1	-	1
21. Bronchitis	1	-	1
22. Pneumonia	-	-	-
23. Other Respiratory disorders	-	-	-
24. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	1	-	1
27. Other digestive disorders	1	-	1
28. Nephritis	-	-	-
29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	-	-	-
32. Congenital Malformation and Birth Injury	-	1	1
33. Suicide	-	1	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-
35. Other violent causes	-	-	-
36. All other causes	-	1	1
	8	13	21.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

1. Medical Officer of Health.

F.H. Rudge, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Resigned appointment 25th December 1948.

2. Sanitary Inspector (part time)

Amos. F. Buller, A.R.S.I.

LABORATORY FACILITIES - Facilities for Laboratory investigation are to be had at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material for investigation is sent.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN - The supply of Antitoxin is maintained at the Health Area Office, St. Austell, and is obtainable by Medical Practitioners for use within the district.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES - Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act 1948 the maintenance of an adequate Ambulance Service in Lostwithiel as elsewhere in Cornwall became the liability of the County Council as from the 5th July 1948.

A satisfactory service has been operated since that date by full-time personnel in co-operation with the voluntary bodies in the adjacent districts.

NURSING IN THE HOME - Prior to 5th July 1948 this Service was carried out by the District Nursing Association. With the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act the County Council assumed the responsibility for these duties. The take over was smooth as could be expected from an Association which had been doing such excellent work for so many years. This does not mean, however, that the Nursing Association ceases to exist. Their members still take a deep interest in all that is going on and through their Committees carry on a liason with the County Council which has helped very considerably in the running of the service.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE - No Child Welfare Centre exists in the district. It is hoped that arrangements will be made to establish a Centre in Lostwithiel under the National Health Scheme of the County in the very near future.

Maternity cases requiring hospital treatment have to be sent to Maternity Hospitals outside the district under the present arrangement. The distance is great and it is hoped that the Regional Hospitals Board will soon establish a Maternity Hospital in the St. Austell area.

HOSPITALS - No Hospitals exist within the Borough and patients have to be treated mainly in the Hospitals at St. Austell, Truro and Bodmin.

In the case of Infectious Disease when isolation in Hospital is required the patient is removed to the Truro Isolation Hospital.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER. The Churchpark Wood Water Scheme which was completed and commenced to operate during 1947 has provided the town with an adequate supply of water during the year under review. During the year a total of 11,300,000 gallons of water were pumped, an approximate daily average figure of 30,000 gallons, the remainder of the water viz, 30,000 gallons per day having been supplied from the gravitational sources of Collibeacon and Maudlin.

Action has been taken in an endeavour to supply the Lower Polscoc area with a satisfactory supply of water, this area obtaining its present supply from unsatisfactory springs. The Borough Surveyor's department has had instructions to prepare a scheme for the extension of the watermains to this area (mainly an agricultural community) for submission to the Minister for his approval in due course. During the year 530 inspections of the Council's water supplies were made of the reservoirs, filter beds, gathering grounds and pumping station.

It has been stated in previous reports of the Medical Officer of Health that the Council has agreed to partake in the proposed Mid-Cornwall Scheme for a supply of water from the De Lank River. Progress in this regard appears to be slow and it will be some years before the supply will be made available to the public.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The main drainage of the town is to the River Fowey where crude sewage is discharged into the River at the upper limit of the tidal waters. In the summer especially this gives rise to serious nuisances and I hope that in the not too distant future these conditions will be remedied as the position at the moment can hardly be described as satisfactory.

DISINFECTION -

Concurrent and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants is carried out in homes where Infectious Disease is notified.

RATES AND NICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

During the year Rat Destruction has been carried out in all parts of the District.

NUISANCES -

15 nuisances were investigated and remedied as a result of informal action.

SCHOOLS -

There has been no change in the sanitary arrangements at the schools.

SECTION D.

H O U S I N G.

As elsewhere in the country there is a great shortage of houses. It is hoped that next year will see a substantial increase in the number of new Council Houses.

Four traditional Houses at Fortescue Place were completed and occupied during the year thus completing the first ten permanent post war houses and in addition four houses of the Cornish Unit type were completed and occupied. A further scheme for the provision of 26 non-Traditional Houses and two Traditional Houses was prepared and approved.

Inspections were made of 48 houses during the year with a view to preparing a list of houses of a type suitable for inclusion in slum clearance areas so that action could be taken as soon as the general housing shortage had been relieved.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

At the end of the year there were 20 cow keepers and 9 retailers of milk on the Milk and Dairies Registers. During the year 28 inspections of Dairies and Cow Sheds were made. One Milk Pasteurisation Licence for High Temperature Pasteurisation has been issued to Messrs. Dried Milk Products Limited.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

As a result of 28 inspections of Food Shops and Slaughterhouse one moribund ewe and viscera was disposed of as unfit for food and the following were surrendered and destroyed - one tin peas, 2 tins sardines, 1 tin liver paste, 3 tins peaches, 5 tins carrots, 3 lbs jam, 2 tins milk, 180 ozs of Piccalilli, 76 ozs baking powder, 126 ozs Fruitella and 2,300 lbs cherries.

ADULTERATION, ETC.

No action has been necessary during the year under the various Acts controlling these offences.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notification of the following infectious diseases were received during the year.

Disease.	Number of Cases.	Rate per 1000 population.	
		Lostwithiel	Eng. & Wales.
Acute Primary Pneumonia	13	6.10	0.73
Measles	9	4.25	9.34
Chickenpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	0.47	1.73
Anterior Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	0.04
Dysentery	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	0.21
Diphtheria	-	-	0.08
Typhoid Fever	-	-	0.01
Para-Typhoid Fever	-	-	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	0.03
Whooping Cough	15	7.05	3.42
Peuperal Pyrexia	-	-	6.89
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0.47	-
Smallpox	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-
Total	39		

There were no deaths from Infectious Diseases during the year.

MEASLES - 9 cases were reported during the year. The infection was of a mild type.

WHOOPING COUGH - 15 cases were notified.

PNEUMONIA - There were 13 cases of Acute Pneumonia but no deaths were reported.

DIPHTHERIA - There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION -

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO THE CHILD POPULATION.

The following table gives the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria up to 31st December 1948.

Age at 31.12.48 i.e. born in year. 1948.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
	1947	1946	1945	1944	1939-43	1934-38		
Number immunised	5	33	36	30	11	25	4	144

Estimated mid year child population 1948,	Children under Five	Children 5-14	
	159	253	412
Percentage	72.32	11.46	34.93

The great drop in the ravages of Diphtheria throughout the country is convincing proof of the value of immunisation and ought to convince all parents of the necessity for protecting their children against the disease.

Immunisation was carried out at the Child Welfare Centres and by the Family Doctors.

Application for immunisation may be made to a Health Visitor or to Private General Practitioners under the County Council Scheme.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age and Sex distributions of Cases and Deaths - 1948.

Age Groups.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Other		Pulmonary		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 "	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 75 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Occupiers Notices prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	6	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (including out-workers' premises).	-	-	-
TOTAL	16	6	-

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector By H.M. Inspector	

Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) insufficient	1	Nil	-	1
(b) unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	Nil	-	-

